

# Mount Vernon Police Ledger

## May 2008

### Teenagers and Drinking: What Is a Parent to Do?

Article written by Captain Michael Kline

**Spring will soon be upon us.** This brings and unfortunately for some, unwanted tragedy associated with youthful irresponsibility. Every year the media cover tragedies associated with alcohol-related crashes that put a damper on events meant to celebrate a right of passage into adulthood.

As a law enforcement professional of nearly 26 years, I have been on the front line of too many of these tragedies. I have witnessed the disruption to the lives of families who have suffered the unmentionable. Many times there were advanced signs the child was engaging in the high risk behavior of underage drinking.

Drunk driving however is not the only thing teenagers engage in when they have been drinking. Alcohol makes them lose their inhibitions and as a result, leads to other problems:

- **The kids get “beer muscles.” They run their yaps and get into fights.** Their minds are not functioning as they should when they are drinking alcohol, so they continue to fight after the battle has clearly been lost. By not feeling the pain, they do not give in. This leads to more severe injuries and sometimes death. Look out if the loser has access to a weapon. Drunks never quit!
  - **Sometimes kids do things they would never do when sober.** I have seen cases where kids who are experienced weapons handlers, recklessly play with weapons when drinking. Kids have shot themselves and other party goers accidentally while playing with weapons after drinking alcohol at teenage parties.
  - **Kids who are drinking alcohol are prone to have other household accidents.** I have seen drunk kids who were scalded to the point of being flown to the Washington Hospital Burn Unit; fell down steps and ended up in a coma; jumped out windows and broke their backs; jumped off decks and broke legs; jumped into swimming pools and had to be rescued before drowning; and suffered severe lacerations from trying to operate power tools.
  - **Drunken kids engage in criminal mischief.** Much of the vandalism of property is done by teenagers who have been drinking. I have seen cases where otherwise clean-cut kids have caused tens, even hundreds, of thousands of dollars in damages to their own community. As a result, kids lose college scholarships. One was even going to quarterback at a Division I college that is perennially nationally ranked.
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#### Dates to Remember

May 11 - Mothers Day
May 13 - CAC Meeting
May 17 - Armed Forces Day
May 22 - Community Meeting with FFX Co. PD
May 26 - Memorial Day
May 31- South Co. Center & Mount Vernon Police Open House

## **Teenagers and Drinking continued from page 1**

- **Libidos and raging hormones mixed with alcohol increase the likelihood of teenage sexual activity.**  
This can have long term ramifications both physically and emotionally.

Frequently, people ask the police how to avoid these pitfalls. Most cops do not have degrees in psychology, but we do come with a great deal of life experience acquired personally, anecdotally, vicariously, and professionally. This allows us to give guidance based upon what we know to be true by example and not from theory. Here are things that cops will tell you from a good old common sense approach to life. Keep in mind that these phenomena are not class, race, or ethnically specific. They take place in all walks of life:

1. **Recognize your children are not infallible and they will make errors in judgment.** Do not get defensive as soon as you're told they have done something wrong. I wish I had \$10 for every time I've heard a parent respond. "Not my kid," only to watch that parent eat crow pie in court because their child got caught a second time. With that accrued money I could have retired from police on time work, four years ago.
2. **They believe they know more than you (I knew more than my parents when I was 16, didn't you? -- WRONG).** When you tell them they could get killed in a car wreck if they drink and drive, they believe that only happens to other kids and not to them. They have never heard of alcohol poison until the Emergency Room doctor is pumping their stomach.
3. **Peer pressure and the need for peer acceptance is a greater need than possible disciplinary consequences.** This speaks for itself. This concept is as old as life itself. Some would argue this concept goes back to the biting of an apple.
4. **Children do not want to disappoint you so they will lie to protect you from knowing they are doing something wrong.** I have seen it from as basic as truancy, whether or not homework was completed, all the way to murder. Really, this one goes on for the rest of most folks' lives. Why else would we have perjury laws, divorces based on adultery, income tax laws, and these famous quotes "*I never once had sex with that woman*" and "*I never knowingly took steroids*" and "*I never bet on baseball*" or, a whole classic movie, *Pinocchio*. Cops get lied to every day. We are good at picking it out. We even get better as we do this job longer. If you ever want to increase your chances of getting out of a traffic ticket, try the truth. We fall for, "I'm sorry, I was wrong," 95 percent of the time. We will let you explain "the BS" to the judge 100 percent of the time.

Here are some things you can do to recognize behaviors that should alert you to a possible problem and actions you can take to minimize your child's chances to participate in underage drinking:

- **Be a parent; don't expect the government to do your job.**
- **ALWAYS set curfews and make sure they are followed.** Why should your child need to be out after 11:p.m.?? School events are done by 10 p.m. Movies rated PG -13 are usually shown at 8 p.m. or earlier. If a movie is rated R, you need to be with your child if he is younger than 17.
- **If your child is going to a party, know the address where the party is taking place and the name of the family hosting the party.** But don't stop there. Contact the parent hosting the party. Make sure they will be there. An older sibling chaperoning a party is probably even worse than no chaperone at all. Most times alcohol is purchased by older siblings of high school students or older friends who hang out with high school students. If there will not be a parent at a teenage gathering, **DO NOT** let your kids attend. This is a recipe for disaster. Teenagers make bad judgments even when you are with them. They make these mistakes as part of growing up. Imagine the kind of decisions they make when you are not around. Your parental wisdom and oversight are required here.

Continue Page 3

## Teenagers and Drinking continued from page 2

- **Never allow your child to attend a party in the woods, a hotel, a field, a frat house, or any other place you can think of that may lead you to believe there will not be 100 percent parental oversight.** Right now, the West Potomac High School kids think we don't know about the party shack in Huntley Meadows Park. For as long as I have been on this Department, kids have been able to rent rooms at the local motels for "keg blowouts." The now defunct Mount V Motel, with the separated cabins, was the motel of choice at one time. We have a major university in Fairfax County. Parties thrown by college kids are no place for high school kids.

Every year the Department undertakes initiatives to enforce laws against those who contribute to the delinquency of minors by selling or providing alcohol to underage drinkers. Last year we arrested a senior citizen grandparent who was knowingly providing alcohol to high schoolers. Here are some helpful hints to avoid being the person getting your picture in the paper a contributor to this reckless behavior:

- **Never allow your house to be used as a teen center while you are not at home. This does not just mean late night parties.** Studies show much of teen experimentation of drugs, alcohol, and sex takes place during the time between school dismissal and parents arriving home from work.
- **If you work at a place that sells alcohol, check, double check, and triple check that ID.** If you still are in doubt, do not sell the booze or you still might lose.
- **Never buy alcohol at a store for anyone you do not know.** Frequently, this is called the "shoulder tap." It goes like this, "Hey, mister can you pick up a 12 pack of Bud for me? Here is \$20 and you can keep the change."

I would have thought we were beyond the days of having to mention this one, but every year we get the grandparents, the mom, the dad, the military officer, the doctor, the lawyer, you name it, actually hosting the teenage bash with booze being served. **NEVER HOST A PARTY WHERE YOU ALLOW UNDERAGE DRINKING.** Not only can you be charged criminally, but you can be held civilly liable if any deaths or injuries occur and they can be associated with your negligent behavior of contributing to this reckless behavior.

If you catch wind of any places where kids are planning on drinking in the Mount Vernon District in the future, please contact the Mount Vernon District Police Station at 703-360-8400 to speak to the Crime Prevention Officer, MPO Robbie Clift or any of the School Resource Officers: PFC Daryl Davis (West Potomac HS), MPO Fred Kessel (Mount Vernon High School), PFC Robert Miller (Walt Whitman Intermediate) PFC Marvin Goodley (Carl Sandberg Intermediate), or MPO Harvey Lyles (Bryant Alternative School). If you discover or suspect an underage drinking party is taking place, please call the non-emergency number for the dispatch center at 703-691-2131.

Page 4 is the Virginia codes for purchasing or possession of alcohol unlawful and purchasing alcohol for someone underage.



#### **4.1-305. Purchasing or possessing alcoholic beverages unlawful**

- A. No person to whom an alcoholic beverage may not lawfully be sold shall consume, purchase or possess, or attempt to consume, purchase or possess, any alcoholic beverage, except (i) pursuant to subdivisions 1 through 7 of § [4.1-200](#); (ii) where possession of the alcoholic beverages by a person less than 21 years of age is due to such person's making a delivery of alcoholic beverages in pursuance of his employment or an order of his parent; or (iii) by any state, federal, or local law-enforcement officer when possession of an alcoholic beverage is necessary in the performance of his duties. Such person may be prosecuted either in the county or city in which the alcohol was possessed or consumed, or in the county or city in which the person exhibits evidence of physical indicia of consumption of alcohol.
- B. No person under the age of 21 years shall use or attempt to use any (i) altered, fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to operate a motor vehicle, (ii) altered, fictitious, facsimile or simulated document, including, but not limited to a birth certificate or student identification card, or (iii) motor vehicle operator's license, birth certificate or student identification card of another person in order to establish a false identification or false age for himself to consume, purchase or attempt to consume or purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- C. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; and upon conviction, (i) such person shall be ordered to pay a mandatory minimum fine of \$500 or ordered to perform a mandatory minimum of 50 hours of community service as a condition of probation supervision and (ii) such person's license to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth may be suspended for a period of not more than one year. The court, in its discretion and upon a demonstration of hardship, may authorize any person convicted of a violation of this section the use of a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of subsection D of § 16.1-278.9 or subsection E of § 18.2-271.1 or when referred to a local community-based probation program established pursuant to Article 9 (§ 9.1-173 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1. During the period of license suspension, the court may require a person issued a restricted permit under the provisions of this subsection to be (i) monitored by an alcohol safety action program, or (ii) supervised by a local community-based probation program established pursuant to Article 9 (§ 9.1-173 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1, if one has been established for the locality. The alcohol safety action program or local community-based probation program shall report to the court any violation of the terms of the restricted permit, the required alcohol safety action program monitoring or the local community-based probation and any condition related thereto or any failure to remain alcohol-free during the suspension period.

#### **§ 4.1-306. Purchasing alcoholic beverages for one to whom they may not be sold; penalty; forfeiture.**

- A. Any person who purchases alcoholic beverages for another person, and at the time of such purchase knows or has reason to believe that the person for whom the alcoholic beverage was purchased was (i) interdicted, or (ii) intoxicated, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. A1. Any person who purchases for, or otherwise gives, provides, or assists in the provision of alcoholic beverages to another person, knowing that such person was less than 21 years of age, except (i) pursuant to subdivisions 1 through 7 of § [4.1-200](#); (ii) where possession of the alcoholic beverages by a person less than 21 years of age is due to such person's making a delivery of alcoholic beverages in pursuance of his employment or an order of his parent; or (iii) by any state, federal, or local law-enforcement officer when possession of an alcoholic beverage is necessary in the performance of his duties, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- B. In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, any person found guilty of a violation of this section may have his license to operate a motor vehicle suspended for a period of not more than one year. The court, in its discretion, may authorize any person convicted of a violation of this section the use of a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of subsection D of § [16.1-278.9](#) or subsection E of § [18.2-271.1](#).
- C. Any alcoholic beverages purchased in violation of this section shall be deemed contraband and forfeited to the Commonwealth in accordance with § [4.1-338](#).

# Major Incidents

## **BURGLARY/ARREST**

### Fairchild Drive

A 28-year-old woman confronted a burglar in her home the 7200 block of Fairchild Drive. The victim came home at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 13 and found one of the windows unlocked. She was searching the home when a burglar came out of the bedroom closet. The suspect pushed the victim to the floor then punched and kicked her. The victim was transported to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital with minor injuries. Police arrested Jose Ernesto Pereira, 21, on Monday, April 14. Pereira was captured after allegedly repeating his actions from the day before. He is accused of entering the same home and this time assaulted a 42-year-old woman. There were no injuries. The suspect was known to the victims. Pereira was arrested and charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of assault. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

## **INDECENT EXPOSURE/ASSAULT/ARREST**

### Mint Place

A 23-year-old Arlington woman was assaulted by a man in a laundry room in the 7100 block of Mint Place on Tuesday, April 15 around 11:30 a.m. The man allegedly pushed the victim, exposed himself to her then fled. The victim was not injured. Jose Lazo Portillo, 25, of 7111 Mint Place #204, was located nearby and arrested. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with assault and indecent exposure.

## **ATTEMPTED CARJACKING/ASSAULT ON POLICE/ARREST**

### Arlington Drive/Windbreak Drive

A 24-year-old Alexandria-area woman was the victim of an attempted carjacking on Sunday, April 6. A man ran after her car while she was driving in the area of Arlington Drive and Windbreak Drive around 10:45 a.m. The suspect opened the driver's side door and allegedly attempted to pull the victim out of the vehicle. She sped away. Officers arrived and Marcelous Hawkins, 24, of no fixed address, approached them, yelling and screaming, and assaulted an officer. He then tried to steal the police car. The conductive energy device was used on the suspect but had no effect. The officers were able to take him into custody, however, he continued to kick violently. Hawkins was restrained and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with attempted carjacking, attempt to disarm a police officer, destruction of property and three counts of assault on a police officer.

## **ROBBERY/MALICIOUS WOUNDING/ARREST**

### Richmond Highway/Frye Road

A 45-year-old Alexandria-area man was robbed and assaulted on Saturday, April 5 at approximately 1:42 a.m. The victim was walking on Richmond Highway near Frye Road when he noticed three teens following him. The suspects approached him and demanded money. When the victim refused, one of the suspects allegedly struck him in the head with a skateboard. He relinquished an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspects fled. The victim was transported to Inova Alexandria Hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The investigation led officers to the homes of two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old, all Alexandria-area males. They were arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. All three suspects were charged with robbery and malicious wounding. Continue page 5



# Major Incidents - continued

## **ARMED ROBBERY**

Groveton Gardens Road 7100

A 21-year-old Maryland man and a 20-year-old Alexandria-area woman were robbed at gunpoint on Monday, April 7 around 2:40 a.m. The couple was walking in the 7100 block of Groveton Gardens Road when the suspect pointed a handgun at them and demanded the man's wallet. The suspect fled with the wallet and the victims were not injured. The suspect was described as black. He was approximately 20 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall and 140 pounds. His face was covered and he wore a black jacket and dark pants.

## **ROBBERY/ARREST**

Monticello Road 5900

Police arrested two men shortly after they robbed a 43-year-old Alexandria-area man last night. Police were called to the 5900 block of Monticello Road at 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, for a robbery. An investigation determined that the victim was walking along Monticello Road near Fort Drive when he was grabbed from behind by three males. The suspects assaulted the victim, took his backpack, then fled toward Fort Drive. Officers located the suspects in a vehicle nearby. James Downing, 22, of 3606 Kendall Place in the Alexandria area and Farhan Rafiq, 21, of 14415 Brandon Court in Woodbridge were each charged with one count of robbery. They were transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Police are still searching for the third suspect, a black male in his 20s. He is about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150 pounds.

## **ROBBERY/ARREST**

Sacramento Drive 8700

A store clerk was robbed by a woman on Wednesday, April 9. The suspect walked into 8792 Sacramento Drive around 12:40 p.m., attempted to steal merchandise and allegedly assaulted the victim, a 37-year-old Alexandria-area woman. The suspect fled. Anne Ware, 24, of 7975 Richmond Highway #12, was located nearby, arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. She was charged with robbery and assault.

## **ROBBERY**

Huntington Avenue 2300

An 18-year-old Alexandria-area man was robbed while walking in the 2300 block of Huntington Avenue on Wednesday, April 2. Around 11:30 p.m., he was approached from behind by three men who hit him on the head and knocked him down. They stole his backpack and fled the scene. There is no suspect information available and the victim sustained no injuries. The investigation is ongoing.

**Anyone with information is asked to call  
Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS[8477] or  
Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.**



# Officer of the Month for March 2008

On several occasions during the month of March 2008, PFC Geoff Carrigan made traffic stops and found illegal substances, in the Hybla Valley, Gum Springs and Sequoia areas of the Mount Vernon District.

The first involved a traffic stop on a vehicle for a minor traffic violation. There were three occupants in the vehicle. PFC Carrigan detected an odor of marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle. Each occupant was told to exit the vehicle. On the front passenger seat floorboard area a backpack was located. Inside a brown paper bag was a zip lock plastic baggie with marijuana. The marijuana weighed in at one pound.

On a second occasion PFC Carrigan stopped a vehicle for a dark tinted window. This is a violation if the window tint is too dark. PFC Carrigan began to utilize a tint meter with the window down on the driver door. Inside the vehicle, PFC Carrigan could smell the odor of marijuana. The driver was told to exit the vehicle. A second Officer onscene stood with the driver, while PFC Carrigan located a couple of baggies of marijuana as well as four small jeweler's baggies of crack cocaine. The driver was arrested for selling both marijuana and crack cocaine.

On what appeared to be a routine traffic stop of a Nissan with a dead taillight, PFC Carrigan began to further investigate past the traffic violation. An operator's license check revealed that the driver was suspended. PFC Carrigan verified the driver was wanted on a failure to appear charge for Speeding to Elude. The driver was arrested on this charge and a search revealed several rocks of crack cocaine.

PFC Carrigan's leadership in making numerous drug arrests promotes a healthy competitive atmosphere for the younger officers on our squad who see the results of his hard work and dedication. Thus PFC Carrigan is extremely productive in two areas. He is taking street-level drug dealers off the street and building a work ethic on the squad that constantly has officers wanting to improve their search and seizure knowledge as well as make illegal substance charges themselves.



***Lock Your Vehicles  
&  
Remove All Property  
Help us reduce the opportunity  
for our communities to be victimized.  
Prevention Works!***

# Attention Seniors: Fairfax Police Want You

The Police Department is reaching out to county residents over 55 years of age, who are interested in serving on new Seniors & Law Enforcement Together (SALT) councils. These groups will serve the important function of helping to enhance the relationship between law enforcement and this fast-growing demographic.

The focus of the new councils will be to enhance law enforcement's response to crime-related issues experienced or feared by older residents. The Police Department wants to hear first-hand from older residents about any of their unmet needs and quality of life issues. It is anticipated that these councils will play an important role in helping guide police department programs and policies.

Potential members should be willing to express their concerns about crime issues and may be asked to help share police-related information with their peers. The councils will be based in local police districts, with meeting times and spaces to be coordinated with local district officers. Police plan a training component to the councils to help new members will better understand the police department and its function in the community.

The Fairfax County Police Department places a high priority on meeting needs of the senior community and welcomes the addition of seniors into their planning process.

For more information on SALT councils, or to volunteer, call 703/246-4564. You will be directed to your local crime prevention officer.

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## Mount Vernon Magisterial District Community Parking District

On March 10, 2008 the Board of Supervisors, at the request of the Mount Vernon Council, designated the entire Mount Vernon Magisterial District as a Community Parking District (CPD). That portion of the Huntington Community within the Lee Magisterial District boundaries is NOT included in the new CPD.

The CPD prohibits the parking of watercraft, motor homes, campers, trailers, vehicles  $\geq$  three axles, vehicles with a GVWR  $\geq$  2,000 pounds., and vehicles transporting  $\geq$  16 passengers (except school buses) on public streets in residentially zoned areas. Violators can be fined up to \$40.00 and may be towed at the owner's expense.

Exemptions include: vehicles used by federal, state or local public agencies to provide services; commercial vehicles discharging passengers, performing work or providing services; vehicles temporarily parked, for up to 48 hours, for the purpose of loading, unloading or preparing for a trip. See the [Code of the County of Fairfax](#), Chapter 82, Article 5B for more on the program and exemptions.

To report a violation, please call the Police Non-Emergency number – (703) 691-2131.

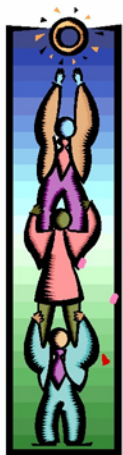
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**South County Center & Mt. Vernon Police Station**



# *Open House*



## **Save the Date!!!**

The South County Center and the Mt. Vernon Police Station invite you to save the date for an upcoming Open House. Learn more about your community and the programs and services available through Fairfax County, especially those right here in the Region 1 Area.

Snacks  
Give Aways  
Police Cars  
Surprises & more

**Date:**

**Saturday, May 31, 2008**

**Time:**

**11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**Where:**

**South County Center  
8350 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA**

# **Working Together**

## **To Grow A Healthy Community**





# Community Meeting with The Fairfax County Police Department May 22, 2008

*The Fairfax County Police Department needs you to tell us how to better (or best) serve and protect you.*

*Police are coming to Hollin Hall Senior Center at 7:00PM to listen to what service you want and expect from the Department.*

*You have a stake in shaping the police service of tomorrow: the protection of your loved ones, your homes and businesses and the preservation of the safety and quality of life we enjoy in Fairfax County.*

*Invest a little of your time and attention into meeting with police and letting them know what you want from them.*

*Your views and feedback are critical as your police department plans for the future, especially in the challenging financial times ahead.*

*Hollin Hall Senior Center Address  
1500 Shenandoah Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22308*



# Fairfax County Police Department



## Mount Vernon Citizens Police Academy July 9 – August 6, 2008 South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria)

The Fairfax County Police Department is hosting a special five-week Citizens Police Academy for individuals who live or work in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County and are at least 18 years of age. The Citizens Police Academy is designed to provide members of the public with a unique “glimpse behind the badge.” Participants learn about the Fairfax County Police Department, including police procedures and programs available to citizens.

Classes will be held on five consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Participants are encouraged to attend all five classes. **The program is offered free of charge and dinner will be provided.**

Participants will learn about:

- **911 Call Center**
- **Patrol**
- **Traffic stops**
- **Gangs**
- **Domestic Violence**



For an application or more information,  
please call **(703) 280-0713**

or e-mail us at

**[CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov)**

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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call Fairfax County Police Department at (703) 691-2131 or TTY (703) 204-2264.





**Mount Vernon Citizens  
Advisory Committee**

**Fairfax County Police  
Department**

**Mount Vernon District Station**

**2511 Parkers Lane**

**Alexandria, Virginia 22306**

**Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400**

**Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928**

**Email: [mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov)**

**Non-Emergency—703-691-2131**

**EMERGENCY—911**

***Making Our Community Safer  
Through Crime Prevention***

**Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee**

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

**Mount Vernon District Station**

Station Commander - Captain Michael Kline

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant David Russell

Crime Prevention Officer - Robbie Clift

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

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**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call  
703-691-2131**

**The Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee's monthly meeting will be on May 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Station.**

**The speaker will be Lesley Bubenhofer from the Probation & Parole Office. She will explain their duties and responsibilities.**

